GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2952
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2005
DAMAGE DUE TO DHAULI GANGA POWER PROJECT
Rawat Shri Bachi Singh

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to leakage of water, heavy cracks have appeared in gram Sabha Syankur and Elagad and the houses are also damaged because of release of water in large scale in the underground tunnels of Dhauliganga Hydro Power Project situated in Pitthoragarh district of Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that at present this tunnel has been closed and the village people have been asked to shift to safer places;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct high level enquiry into the matter so that such incidents do not recur in future;

(d) if so, whether the Government have any scheme to rehabilitate the affected families and provide compensations to them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER(SHRI P.M. SAYEED)

(a) : National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) have informed that during initial filling of water conductor system for Dhualiganga Hydroelectric project situated in Pithoragarh District of Uttaranchal, some seepage was observed through the pressure relief holes provided in the system based on engineering consideration at the junction of over burden with the rock. Due to the above seepage, subsidence was observed in the over burden adjacent to the water conductor system in the land belonging to Syankuri Gram Sabha.

(b) : The tunnel was inspected by a team of experts and suggested remedial measures have been undertaken. The issue was discussed with the villagers in the presence of the District administration and for safety reasons, 24 families have been requested to move to a safer place after due compensation.

(c) : No, Sir. During initial charging of the water conductor system this is a normal phenomenon and such type of incidents do occur.

(d) & (e) : Following assistance has been considered by NHPC for the affected families as per agreement with them:-

(i) Each affected family has been paid Rs.45,000/-to move to safer place till the end of rainy season i.e. October 2005.

(ii) All the houses have since been evaluated by the State Government and in case of any damage the same shall be compensated by NHPC.

(iii) Cost of minor repairs, if required, after the rainy season and charging of the water conductor system shall be got done by NHPC through the affected people.

(iv) Any protection works required shall be carried out through the affected families.